Low cost fertility control drug

2044. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian fertility control drug "Centchorman" has been hailed as a great low cost breakthrough and the vaccines now are also on trial in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to make use of the drug and the vaccine in the country on a large scale; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor:

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Centchorman is a novel once-a-week non-sterodical female contraceptive drug representing an international breakthrough in contraception. The drug is meant for oral in-take and is not available in vaccine form. The drug costs Rs. 28 per month for the first 3 months period whereafter the cost per month is reduced to Rs. 14 only.

(c) and (d) The drug is being marketed by the Public Sector Company viz. M/s. Hindusthan Latex Limited and a private concern viz. M/s. Torrent Pharmeceuticals Limited. Further efforts have been made to popularise the drug.

Promotion of Science and Technology

2045. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(b) what are the reasons for selecting and Technology which are proposed to be promoted during this year;

(b) what are the reasons for selecting such areas for promotion; and

(c) what is the financial allocation for this purpose during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The Depatrment of Science and Technology supporters research in frontline areas as science and technology through the Science Engineering Research Council (SERC). The areas for research support are identified and selected through worshops, discussions with experts. Some of the area which will be promoted are Seismicity, Climate Research, Disaster Mitigation, Earthquake Engineering, Photo-chemistry & Laser Chemisty, Bio-inorganic Chemistry, Astronomy & astrophysics, advanced Materials Engineering, Condensed Matter Physics, Biopolymers, Bio-Medical devices, Laser Research and Development.

Rs. 36 Crores is provided in the Budget for the current year which caters for new and ongoing schemes.

Grant for Scientific Association and bodies

2046. DR. SRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names and number of the Scientific Associations and bodies which were given grants during the last three years and the total amount of such grants; and

(b) whether any evaluation of such grants and their utilisation has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.